



Goleta

# DEPOT DISPATCH



Newsletter of the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum

*Volume 9, Number 3 — Fall 1989*

## Hills Found Children's Program Fund

Earl and Rose Ann Hill have established a special education fund for children's programs at the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum, with a generous founding gift of \$15,000. The Museum plans to increase the amount in the fund to \$50,000 over the next four years, with grants and contributions from members, the business community, and other sources.

Dr. and Mrs. Hill are two of Goleta's most prominent residents. They are past recipients of the Golden Deed Award, the community's foremost honor for "service above self" and will be serving as Grand Marshals for the 1989 Goleta Valley Days parade. The Hills have been staunch supporters of Goleta Depot and other Institute for American Research projects for many years.

The new fund, which bears the names of Dr. and Mrs. Hill, becomes part of the Museum's general Endowment, begun in 1988 by Richard and Georgia Thomas of Los Altos Hills. An initial five-year goal of \$175,000 was set for the Endowment at that time. The Hill contribution increases to 28.5% the percentage of the goal received to date in gifts and pledges.

Young people comprise a continually growing share of the audience that the Museum serves. The Museum now has a number of programs designed expressly for children, including Amtrak rail trips for local school groups, Museum tours for school and youth groups, and classroom visits by Museum staff, among others, including some described elsewhere in this issue.

With the income generated by the Earl and Rose Ann Hill Education Fund for Children's Programs, the Museum plans not only to expand these existing programs, but also to develop and implement new ones. Among these are plans to acquire films for young audiences that will be shown on the Museum's new video equipment (purchased with Endowment revenue), and an exciting new program, called the Young Engineers Club, which will bring participating youngsters into contact with a variety of educational and recreational opportunities related to the history and adventure of railroading.



*Earl and Rose Ann Hill, with Phyllis Olsen*

## Steaming Summer Draws To Close

The last day of this year's highly successful program of miniature train rides, "Another Steaming Summer," will be Sept. 23. Every effort is being made to see that this closing Saturday is also the high point of the season.

As a special addition, Goleta Lions Club members will be preparing and selling tri-tip sandwiches and hot dogs. All proceeds will benefit the Museum. Please come out and show the Lions how much we appreciate their generous support!

The workhorse of the summer program has been the Museum's new diesel-prototype locomotive, with Gene Allen's and Ed Winnewisser's steam engines in support.

The diesel, which was purchased with money raised during the 1988 Asphalt Regatta fundraiser, is a 1/8-size reproduction of one of the 10 EMD yard-switchers purchased by the Southern Pacific in 1941 from General Motors. These

*(continued on page 2)*

1,000 horsepower engines were among the first diesels placed into service by the S.P. The Museum engine has been detailed to match that of S.P. No. 1316, which was assigned to the Taylor Yards in Los Angeles.

No. 1316 had 40-inch drive wheels (all wheels were powered) and 8-1/2-inch-diameter pistons with a 10-inch stroke. The engine weighed 248,300 pounds with a tractive-effort rating of 62,100 pounds.

The Museum's operating replica was manufactured by Morris Industries of Charlotte, Michigan. Research and



*Crew members pose with new engine and friend.*

detailing were done by Bob McNeel, other Museum volunteers, and staff.

This "Steaming Summer" has also benefitted from a sizable increase in the miniature railroad's corps of volunteers. Participating this year are Gene Allen, Paul Conover, Allan Cooley, Al Jaramillo, Mildred Kern, Steve Kramer, George Potter, John Schaller, and Ed Winnewisser.

Four new Museum riding cars also have helped make this year's operation much easier. These include three passenger cars and a special car for the engineer and either a crew-member or passenger. The new cars would not have been possible without Jim Higman's kind donation of four pairs of ball-bearing trucks and four pairs of couplers, appraised at \$2,240. Gene Allen, Ed Winnewisser, and Steve Kramer contributed time to design, build, and outfit the cars.

Another addition to "Another Steaming Summer" has been the sale of fresh popcorn. Thanks to Ed Lebeck for arranging the loan of the commercial corn popper and to the Beachside Restaurant for donating most of the supplies.

## Couple Tells Of Personal Feelings Behind Endowment Gift

Walter and Joyce Douglas recently became two of the latest participants in the Museum's Endowment campaign with a \$500 pledge. The reason behind their decision goes all the way back to World War II, when Walt's association with Goleta Depot first began.

It was 1945 and young Walter was on a troop train, full of

sailors, traveling from San Francisco to Los Angeles. About 2:30 A.M., the train stopped in front of the Goleta station, where the weary-eyed men were greeted by a group of ladies, who served them complimentary coffee and doughnuts. Joyce explains: "It was the only place on the whole trip that such hospitality was shown — and in the middle of the night! So Walt has a very special, sentimental feeling for the Depot."

## Group Visits Mean Special Tours

A number of youth and other groups have visited the Museum in recent months. On June 2, sightless persons from the Braille Institute made their first group visit to the Museum. Phyllis Olsen described the experience as "the most moving and rewarding tour I've ever given."

Other recent visiting organizations include DevelCamp from the Santa Barbara Recreation Dept., Cliff Day Care School, the Turnpike congregation of the Church of Religious Science, the Rainbow School, and Santa Barbara Special Olympics.

## Museum Earns Grant From Santa Barbara Foundation

The Santa Barbara Foundation has awarded us a grant of \$1,961 for the purchase of an office copier. For a long time, this has been our most needed piece of office equipment. We are deeply indebted to the Santa Barbara Foundation for its renewed support of our programs. The foundation was a major benefactor during the campaign to save Goleta Depot during the early 1980s.

## Programs Expanded

The Museum is currently experimenting with expanded schedules for both the model railroad exhibit and the caboose. If these trials are successful, they will mean substantial increases in the availability of these Museum resources to the visiting public.

This summer, the model railroad room has been open on selected Sundays, as well as Saturdays. Previously, the exhibit had been open on Saturdays only. Prospects now look good for the room to be open on both weekend days, as part of the Museum's regular operating schedule, beginning sometime next year. Sunday attendance has been encouraging and several volunteers have already come forward offering to hold the room open and operate the trains one or more times a month. Two or three more volunteers can make this a reality. Are you available?

We have also been opening the caboose on a trial basis on Saturdays. This also now seems to be a likely addition to the regular Museum schedule in the near future. Larry Caccese has made sharing the caboose with visitors a much easier task for our docents by repairing the door and lock on the south end of the car.

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Published quarterly by the Institute for American Research  
300 N. Los Carneros Rd., Goleta, Calif.  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 2125, Goleta, CA 93118  
Phone: (805) 964-3540 or 964-3549

Photos on page 2 and 3 (right) courtesy of Dave Hieter.  
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## Library Youth Reading Program Benefits From Museum Help

The Museum joined in the Summer Reading Program of the Santa Barbara public libraries. This year's theme was "Get On The Right Track — Read." Our involvement included several activities. To encourage reading achievement, we



*Children on Simi Trip act out "Little Engine."*

gave the various library branches complimentary "Steaming Summer" train ride tickets, which were awarded to children who fulfilled Reading Program requirements.

The Museum organized and conducted an Amtrak rail trip to Simi Valley on Aug. 14, also in conjunction with the Summer Reading Program. Making use of both the *San Diegan* and *Coast Starlight*, the roundtrip excursion, led by Museum staff members Phyllis Olsen and Gary Coombs, was enjoyed by 16 children and 14 adults. Judy Savage, the Goleta children's librarian and longtime Friend of Goleta Depot, also participated, giving the children a storytime during our stopover in Simi Valley.

The Museum also installed a railroad theme exhibit in the downtown Santa Barbara Public Library, which ran throughout the month of July.

## Handcar Project Report

Those who have contributed to the Museum Handcar Fund since the last *Depot Dispatch* include George H. Adams, Carolin Allbright, Corey and Jill Anderson, Betty Bazzi, The Jack Cogan Family, T.M. Hartigan, Morris and Opal Jeffers, Josiah Jenkins, James McCulloch, Mrs. Ernest F. Menzies, Bruce and Ida Rickborn, Theresa M. Ruether, Madeline V. Schroll, and Rachel and Stuart Wallace.

Although the handcar is almost finished, a sizable deficit remains in the Handcar Fund. About \$800 is still needed to cover the expenses to date. Persons wishing to make a tax-deductible contribution may use the accompanying form.

## Other Projects Advance

The wig-wag is now operational and is being run on Saturdays during Museum hours. We hope soon to replace the current temporary system, which requires some manual

intervention, with a fully automatic design, so that the signal can operate every Museum day. The timing device which turns the wig-wag off and on was purchased with income from the Museum Endowment.

Gene Allen repaired one of the steps up to the depot freight platform which was broken on July 4th. Over 3,000 people visited the Museum as a result of another highly successful Old Fashioned Fourth of July celebration put on by our Stow House neighbors, the Goleta Valley Historical Society.

The Museum has received permission from the County Parks Dept. and the County Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee to build a storage shed for the handcar and other equipment. This addition will be styled like other Southern Pacific railroad sheds and will be placed directly across the tracks from the wig-wag. S.P. maintained several of these utility sheds in the vicinity of Goleta Depot.



## ... And the (Handcar Race) Results Are In ...!

Two teams from the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum took part in the 5th Annual Roaring Camp Handcar Races, held July 15 and 16 in Felton, California. The Museum contingent included Captain Dave Hieter; members Ron Hlinka, Ellery Smythe, Jane Hieter, Lyla Allen, Don Glynn, and Jim Allen; and alternate Doris Smythe.

Both teams competed in the Masters Division, in which all participants must be age 40 or older. Our Mixed team (teams are comprised of three men and two women) finished second, while the Men's team placed fourth.

Congratulations to all participants for their fine showing!



*Handcar team takes a well-deserved bow.*

# Depot Day is October 15!

The 7th Annual Depot Day will be held Sunday, Oct. 15 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Depot Day will again serve as the closing event of the Goleta Valley Days Festival.

## Museum Handcar Arrives

One of the top attractions of Depot Day '89 will be the Museum's new handcar, now in its final stages of completion. Plans are to unveil the handcar, which is being built entirely with volunteer labor and funds donated by Museum members and friends, at the opening of Depot Day. Handcar rides will be offered throughout the day.

## Train and Speeder Rides, Too!

There will also be rides on the miniature trains, the most popular activity of past Depot Days. On the Museum's mainline track, Bob Mahan also will be giving "speeder" rides in his Fairmont inspection car.

## Attention, Members!!!

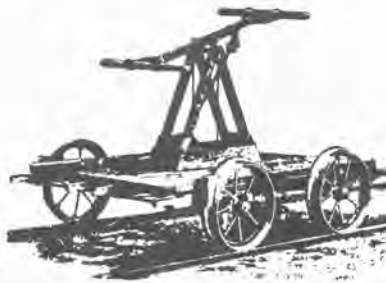
Beginning this year, a \$1 admission will be charged adults and children who are tall enough to ride the handcar. Unlimited rides on the speeder and handcar will be included as part of the admission charge. Tickets for the miniature train remain \$1.

Members will be admitted free to Depot Day, but you must show your current membership card. If you've lost your card, you may call the Museum (964-3540) and your name(s) will be placed on a special list that will be available at the admissions table. Sorry, there will be no exceptions to this procedure.

This year's program includes many popular activities returning from previous years, as well as other new attractions. Please don't miss out on all the fun and excitement!

Anna Dato and Edee Brown are sharing the chairmanship responsibilities this year. They wish to remind members that Depot Day is the Museum's main annual public event and that the cooperation and support of members is vital to its success.

If you are able to help, please leave your name with the Museum office (964-3540) and Anna or Edee will get in touch with you.



## "Dining Car" Will Offer Tri-Tip Barbecue

A delicious tri-tip barbecue meal will be served from noon 'til 3 p.m. The Native Sons of the Golden West and Institute board members again will work together in preparing and serving the food.

The meal includes tri-tip, green salad, toasted french bread, and barbecue beans. Advance ticket prices, which include Depot Day admission for non-members, are: Members \$6; Adults \$7; Children 12 and under \$5.

Everyone is urged to purchase their barbecue tickets before Depot Day. Not only will this earn you the advance price discount, but it will also help planners to estimate the number of meals that will be needed. For reservations, please call the Museum office (964-3540), or purchase your tickets in the Museum Shop, Wednesday through Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m.

## Super Refreshments To Be Served In "Club Car"

Hot dogs, lemonade, soft drinks, baked goods, and other tasty treats will be sold throughout Depot Day.

## Silent Auction Offers Great Bargains

During Depot Day, don't forget to stop by the Silent Auction tables and place bids on your favorite items. This is an important revenue source for the Museum and those who participate often come away with some terrific bargains. Among the items up for auction this year are toys, travel and recreation items, railroadiana, and collectibles.

Members among the merchant and professional communities: Please call in your pledges of merchandise or services to add to the auction list. Some homemade and good used items also will be included among the items going up for bids.

## Steam Display Returns

Also returning for Depot Day '89 is the popular exhibit of stationary steam engines, which will be coordinated this year by Ernest Thomsen.